E
61
.N55

Class E61

Book .N55

MONTEZUMA, THE LAST AZTEC EMPEROR.

ORIGIN OF THE RED MEN;

AN

AUTHENTIC HISTORY OF THE PEOPLING OF AMERICA

BY

THE ATLANTIANS AND TYRIANS;

THE ORIGIN OF THE TOLTECS,

THE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF ATLANTIS,

An Island that once extended from near the Coast of Africa to the West Indies;

THE DESTRUCTION OF ATLANTIS,

By two general Sinkings of Land, as proved from the Tradition of the Remnant of the Atlantians, and from other sources;

LEGEND OF QUETZALCOATL, A REFORMER AND DIVINE OF THE EARLY AGES OF MEXICO;

THE AZTEC CITY OF SUMAI, ETC.

BY JOHN B. NEWMAN, M. D.,

AUTHOR OF "ILLUSTRATED BOTANY," "NATURAL HISTORY," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A PORTRAIT OF MONTEZUMA,

THE LAST OF THE AZTEC EMPERORS.

1800

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN C. WELLS.

1852.

E61
.N55

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1847.
By THOMAS S. HUSTED,
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern
District of New York

THE AZTEC CITY OF SUMAI.

INTRODUCTION.

The late remarkable expedition of Colonel Doniphan through the Mexican country has been narrated with considerable detail in the New Orleans National newspaper, and from it, been extensively copied and circulated by the press of the United States. Though most of the facts are highly exciting and interesting, yet there is one among them that will survive the remembrance of the others, and be more likely to perpetuate the memory of that arduous undertaking than even the object for which it was despatched. We allude to the discovery of that long sought and anxiously waited for event,—an Aztec city and genuine Mexican inhabitants. The National gives the following story among its sketches, under the heading of

EXTRAORDINARY INLAND CITY.

About the time Colonel Doniphan made his treaty with the Navajos, a division, of his command was entirely out of provisions, but these were liberally supplied with the present necessities, by the

tribe with whom they had just concluded terms of peace. The necessity, however, induced a portion of the regiment to return to Cuvano. While another portion commanded by Major Gilpin and accompanied by Colonel Doniphan, took the opportunity of visiting the city of the Sumai Indians which is celebrated over all the surrounding country, to make a peace between them and the Navajos. This city was situated on the Rio Pesco or Piscow, which is supposed be a branch of the Geyia. They were successful in their object, and from thence returned to the Rio del Norte.

Unlike the Navajos, the people of Sumai live in a city which presents every appearance of a high degree of civilization. It contains probably over six thousand inhabitants who support themselves entirely by agriculture. This city is one of the most extraordinary on the globe. Its mode of building is extremely peculiar, it being divided into four solid squares, having but two streets and these crossing the centre at right angles. The buildings are all two stories in height and composed of sun burned brick. The first stories of each quarter are connected together, presenting a solid wall to the street, and so constructed that each house joins perfectly as far the first story is concerned, with the one next to it, until one fourth of the city may be said to be one solid structure. The second stories rise from this vast solid foundation so as to designate each house, not uniting as do the first, but with

room enough between each building for persons to pass each other without inconvenience. The inhabitants of Sumai enter the second story of their buildings by ladders which they draw up at night, as a defence against any enemy that might be prowling about.

In the city of Sumai were seen some white Indians, and this circumstance probably gave rise to the story of there living afar off in the Rock Mountains a tribe of white aborigines. These Albinoes are very few in number.

The discovery of this city of Sumai will afford the most curious speculations among those who have so long searched in vain for a city of the Indians who possessed the habits and manners of the Aztecs. No doubt we have here a race living as did that people when Cortez entered Mexico.

It is a remarkable fact that the Sumians have, since the Spaniards left the country, refused to have any intercourse with the modern Mexicans, looking as they do upon that mixed and debased race as a far inferior people. They have also driven from among them the priests and other dignitaries, who formerly had power over them, and after this occurrence resumed habits and manners of their own, their Great Chief or Governor being the civil and religious head.

The country around the city of Sumai is cultivated with the utmost care and skill, and the people reap immense harvests as the reward of their indus-

try; enough not only for themselves, but what is absolutely necessary in a country surrounded by such a sterile tract,—for also, large flocks of cattle and sheep.

So far the information furnished by the expedition and enough too, to cause others to follow in its track. The inhabitants of Sumai claim a direct descent from the pure Aztec race and pretend to retain their habits and customs. We have now a ready method of reading the hierogliphics, so profusely inscribed on the ruins of the ancient cities. Such a consummation would at any rate be a great satisfaction, though with regard to their origin and early history, we have much to learn at this day.

It is our opinion that from the information before them, antiquarians will come finally to the conclusion that America has been peopled from three different sources.

In the first place by the passage of the descendants of Gomer, or Atlas, over the celebrated island of Alantis, by means of the islets of the sea. The overthrow of the islands driving the saved remnant in a southerly direction, where their descendants are now found under the name of Peruvians etc.

Secondly by the crossing of the Tartar hordes into America from the north-eastern parts of Asia.

Thirdly. by the voyage of the fifteen thousand whom the Sidonians carried from Tyre, to the eastern shores of Mexico. In relation to these it is the object of this work to treat, and a connected but

short history is given of them from the confusion of tongues to the era of Cortez.

"Few questions," says a writer, "have given rise to more discussion or more ingenious theorizing than the original history of America. To determine their original paternity, many incredible and absurd hypotheses have been from time to time propounded. Some authors—lord Kaimes among them—have not scrupled to report that the Mosaic account of the creation of our first parents was only intended to inform us of the origin of the inhabitants of the eastern world, and that the Americans have sprung from a different Adam, and a less erring Eve. Others, with more piety, have contented themselves with hazarding the conjecture that the destruction of the tower of Babel, when, according to Holy Writ—'The Lord scattered them, (the builders) abroad upon the face of all the earth,' was the time when the vast plains and forests of the western world first received man as their inhabitant.

"A third party conceived that in former times an island of enormous dimensions, named Atlantis, stretched from the north-western coast of Africa across the Atlantic ocean, and that over this continental tract both man and beast migrated westward. In one night, however, a mighty storm and wind overwhelmed this island, at a time when only a few animals had succeeded in making good their passage.

"The discoveries made by the Russians in the northern parts of the world under the auspices of Peter the Great, confirmed the opinion of those who, not disposed to account by supernatural agency for what might be effected by natural causes, had early suggested the possibility of America being peopled from the contiguous northern shores of Europe on the one side and Asia on the other. They insisted upon the similarity in features and manners and mode of life of the denizens of the frigid zones, and arguing upon the analagous migrations of the European and Asiatic nomads, they accounted for the existence of the Southern Americans by the continual pressure of a rapidly increasing population from the north.

"But even when the discoveries of Russia apparently corroborated this hypothesis, the tide of discussion was not checked, but merely diverted into fresh and new channels. Almost every nation of the Old World set up its claim in turn for the honor of having given birth to the new hemisphere; the Jews, Canaanites, Carthagenians, Greeks, Scythians, Chinese and many others, have all found zealous advocates for their respective claims."

At all events the discussion has occasioned a most zealous research in all the historical records procurable, and if it has done nothing more to the elucidation of American history, would have been use-

pages 11 to 14 missing

throne. Hiram made many extensive improvements raising the eastern part higher and enlarging the city itself. He also built many temples to the gods, and joined the temple of Hercules, which before stood by itself, to the city, by a bank in the middle between them, and this temple he adorned with many donations of golden ornaments. 2.

---

am at leisure, and design to build a house to God. For God foretold to my father that such a habitation should be erected by me. Therefore I desire thee to send some of thy subjects with mine to Mount Lebanon, to cut down timbers, for the Sidonians are more skilful than our people in cutting of wood. As for wages to the hewers of wood, I will pay whatever price thou shalt determine.

King Hiram was pleased with the letter and rejoiced that he might have an opportunity of serving Solomon, for he was liberal and benificent to all, and desirous besides to assist a prince of whose wisdom and might so much had been said. He therefore wrote back the answer.

KING HIRAM TO KING SOLOMON.

It is fit to bless God, that he hath committed thy father's government for thee, who art a wise man and endowed with all virtues. As to myself I rejoice at the condition thou art in; and will be subservient to thee in all that thou sendest to me about. For when my subjects have cut down many and large trees of cedar and cypress wood. I will send them to sea and order my subjects to make floats of them, and to sail to what place soever of thy country thou shalt desire, and leave them there. After which thy subjects may carry them to Jerusalem.

This was the commencement of much pleasant and familiar intercourse between Hiram and Solomon: and the workmen of Tyre did the monarch of Israel great and important service by their skill in the working of wood and timber, more especially was this the case with a man named Kiram whose mother was a daughter of the tribe of the Israelite Naphtali, but his father a Tyrean worker in brass. The skill of the father had been great but the

Ethbaal king of Tyre and Sidon, a successor of Hiram, married his daughter Jezabel to Ahab, king of Israel, and by this means extended the worship of Idols to a great extent among the Israelites; this caused a severe drought in the land which did not cease until the prophets of Baal were all slaughtered that resided in Israel; and that not sufficing to cure Ahab of idolatry he also was himself killed with his wife Jezabel, whose blood the dogs licked. 3.

---

son excelled him, for he was filled with wisdom and understanding and Cunning to work all works in brass. And he was sent for by king Solomon and came to him and wrought all his works.

In return for the kindness of Hiram, for he had furnished according to desire cedar and fir trees and gold and workmen Solomon presented him with a district of country in Galilee, containing twenty cities. Then Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him and they pleased him not and he said: what cities are those that thou hast given me my brother; and he called them Oabul, the land of Displeasure. But king Solomon sent him word that the cities he had given were conquered by himself in war, and that only such were in his power to dispose of; the laws of Israel declaring that each family had a right to its own land by divine appointment and that it could not be alienated forever. When Hiram understood the matter he was satisfied and sent Solomon many talents of gold, and there was peace between them.

Hiram, moreover, sent hard words and curious sayings to Solomon, and desired he would return answers to them or pay money if he failed. This he did to try his wisdom. Now so sagacious and full of understanding was Solomon that he gave answers to all of them; nor were they too hard for him, but that he discoverod the meaning and brought it to light. Solomon then sent riddles to Hiram whereby Hiram would have lost great sums of money were it not that a man named Abdermon offered himself to the king as one who could understand hidden meanings; and Abdermon explained all the dark sayings.

3. Pygmalion a successor of Ethbaal exceed most of the

The Tyrians after these occurrances felt the deepest animosity to the children of Israel, who besides had begun to rival them in commerce; and when afterwards Jerusalem was taken by the king of Assyria, exulted in her downfall; 4 but the triumh was premature, the same conqueror came against Tyre, took it after a seige of thirteen years, slaughtered great numbers of their people, tore down the houses and walls of their city and carried off whatever was valuable in goods and merchandise. 5.

Tyrian kings in wickedness; he cruelly used his sister Dido, and her husband Cichaeus, which led to the founding of another colony on the shores of the Mediterranean destined by its success in commerce to eclipse all nations; but for this colony the religious ceremonies of the Tyrians would have been lost, as it is their customs were preserved and rendered capable of being identified with similar rites whereever found.

4. They evidently exulted without any apprehension of danger to themselves, as they had already measured arms with the Assyrians, and gained the victory. This was during the reign of Eluleus, when Shalmanasor king of Assyria overran all the land of Phœnecia. The people of Tyre would not submit to him, but fought him in their ships on the water, and carried off over five hundred prisoners. This action gave them great fame among the surrounding nations, and inflated still more a pride already inordinate. But the king of Assyria, irritated at their success, returned and placed guards at the river and aqueducts to hinder them from the drinking of the water; this state of things continued five years and still the Tyreians maintained the seige and procurred supplies of water by digging wells inside their walls. The final retreat of Shalmanasor made them consider the defences of their city invincible.

5. The people of Tyre were often subjects of prophesy. The spirit of their ancestor Ham would continually develop itself in wanton and insulting actions. "Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be to his brethren," were the

This unfortunate occurrence for a long time depressed the spirits of the people, but at the end of seventy years, they commenced building again on the old site: as they were proceeding in their labors, the sea arose and rendered the place uninhabitable. On this they removed to an island five miles distant and commenced building anew; their enterprising spirit did not desert them, a magnificent city rapidly arose, and again was their present habitation the glory of the country renowned for wealth and grandeur. Displeased with the race of Ahibal, they had appointed the family

---

inspired words of Noah when he discovered the indignity his son Ham had but upon him in his drunkenness. The denunciation, it will be observed was not against all the children of the offender, but only against those who would imbibe that ungrateful son's spirit.

The prophecy of Ezekiel is worth recording in connection with the taking of Tyre the first time and the completion of its fulfilment the second.

PROPHECY OF EZEKIEL.

"Because Tyrus hath said against Jerusalem: she is broken that was the gates of the people; she is turned unto me, I shall be replenished now that she is laid waste; therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against the O Tyrus and will cause many nations to come up against thee as the sea causeth his wares to come up. And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus and break down her towers; I will also scrape the dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea; for I have spoken it saith the Lord God, and it shall become a spoil to the nations. And her daughters which are in the field shall be slain by the sword; and they shall know that I am the Lord.

For thus saith the Lord God; Behold I will bring upon Tyrus, Nebuchadnezar king of Babylon, a king of kings, from the north with horses and with chariots and with horsemen and companies and much people. He shall slay with the sword thy daughters in the field: and he shall make a fort against thee and cast a mount against thee, and

of Strato to succeed it, and it was mentioned before the eighth king of the new dynasty sat on the throne when war was proclaimed by the king of Macedon.

The Tyrians derided his message; their city was strongly fortified. It stood on an island half a mile from the main land, encompassed on all sides by an immense wall one hundred and fifty feet high leaving no space between its base and the sea. From the land it could not be assailed, and on the water, the Tyrians possessed a numerous armament of galleys, sufficient, they thought, to defeat any maratime force brought against them.

Alexander after a careful examination of the advantages of their position, saw that his only chance for success, was to connect the island with the main land by filling up the sea between them, and by thus making an immense pier extend the shore to the foot of the walls!

Although the sea was of considerable depth, the soldiers of Macedon resolutely undertook to accomplish the desire of their king, and accordingly commenced the works; but they had to do with an enemy as brave and skillful as themselves, and more confident of success; for the Tyrians manned their ships, beat off the soldiers who were toiling, and scornfully destroyed the fruits of their labors. Maddened by this continual and effectual opposition it required the entire strength of Alexander's mind to keep down his rage and contrive the means of sucess. Finding it was necessary to meet the Tyrians on the sea, he collected from all the neighboring seaports under his control a large fleet; these battled

---

lift up the buckler against thee. And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes shall he break down thy towers. By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover thee: thy walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wheels and of the chariots, when he shall enter thy gates, as men enter into a city wherein is made a breach. With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all thy streets; he shall slay thy people by the sword and thy strong garrisons shall go down to the ground. And they shall make a spoil of thy riches, and make a prey of thy merchandise; and they shall

with the defenders of the city, who were at length driven by superior numbers under their own walls for safety, where in deep grief and anger they saw the Macedonian's preparations without power to retard them.

Incredible as was the labor and fatigue that attended the execution of the works, they now proceeded with immense rapidity. To form the mound from the continent to the island the ruins of old Tyre afforded ready materials and all that could be obtained in this way was gathered and scraped. 6.

In the seventh month of the siege the pier was completed. The besiegers lost no time, for all having been prepared for the expected moment, their engines were run against the walls and commened battering them, while their fleet sailed round to the other side of the city to endeavor to gain admittance by means of a pier. At length a breach was effected and the Macedonians entered the city putting all who opposed them to the sword. The Tyrians fought desperately from the first; their king Azelmic chained the statue of Hercules, to the principal altar of the city, to keep him from deserting them. The defence was made in vain, the enemy were successful and Alexander, irritated to madness, now gave full vent to his furious passions, and although eight thousand of the inhabitants had been killed in the assault, with savage barbarity crucified two thousand of them and sold thirty thousand more as slaves.

---

break down thy walls and destroy thy pleasant houses: and they shall lay thy stores and thy dust in the middle of the water. And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease: and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard. And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon: thou shalt be built no more, for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God."

It will be seen in the ensuing pages how literally the prophecy was fulfilled, and how that after trying to rebuild the city the sea rose up and spoiled their labors.

6. Thus was the very dust scraped from the walls of old Tyre as Ezekiel had prophesied.

Sidon, which had submitted without a struggle to Alexander, found favor in his sight; so much so that he allowed the Sidonians to carry off fifteen thousand of the ill-fated inhabitants of Tyre to another country for he refused to allow any of them to remain in the city. This exile remnant proceeded down the Mediterranean to Cyprus where they had intended to stop; but messengers came to inform them that whatever place received them on that place should fall the vengeance of Alexander; and also a message to the Sidonians from the Macedonian monarch, desiring their instant return.

The Sidonians thus forced to depart suddenly, left ships enough with the Tyrians to enable them to leave Cyprus, the inhabitants of which refused to receive them. In this emergency they determined to leave that quarter of the world, and put themselves beyond the vengeance of Alexander by crossing the waters to the isle of Atlantis. 7.

This island belonged to a king named Atlas who dwelt westward and whose dominion extended over a vast domain. He was the great patriarch as well as king of western Eu-

---

7. Four hundred years before the destruction had the whole scene been painted by Josiah. "Be still ye inhabitants of the isle; thou whom the merchants of Sidon, that pass over the sea have replenished. Is this your joyous city, whose antiquity is of ancient days? *her own feet shall carry her afar off to sojourn.* Who hath taken this counsel against Tyre, the crowing city, whose merchants are princes, whose traffickers are the honorable of the earth. He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms; the Lord hath given a commandment against the merchant city to destroy the strong holds thereof. And he said thou shalt no more rejoice daughter of Sidon: *arise pass over to Chittim: there also thou shalt have no rest.*"

This exile remnant were those of whom Isaiah said "that they should be as the shaking of an olive tree, as the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done." How truly was it that her own fleet (her old friends who had often supported her) should carry her off to sojourn, and that once passed over to Chittim (Cyprus) she found no more rest.

rope. It was said that his empire reached to the utmost regions of the west and to that sea where the horses of the sun, wearied with their daily course, refresh themselves. A thousand flocks fed in his wide extended plains and of all he was the owner. He had many children ; the most famous was Hesperia. He had likewise several daughters who were in possession of the extreme islands of the west between Atlantis and Europe.

Hercules had, many generations before while ancient Tyre was in existence, made a voyage in one of their ships and crossing the Medeterranean passed through the straits of Gibralter, which from that circumstance bore his name, being called the Pillars of Hercules. 8 Still continuing his jour-

---

8. The ancient writers tell that Hercules visited the islands of Hesperides to partake of the fruit, (oranges, pomgramates etc.) he was assisted in this by the race of Atlas. Lempriere gives the story thus:—The island of Alantides or Hesperides lay beyond mount Atlas in Africa. The celebrated island contained gardens abounding with fruits of the most delicious kind and was carefully guarded by a dreadful dragon (the great deep) which never slept. It was one of the labors of Hercules to procure some of the golden apples (oranges, called Hespence fruit by the ancients) of the Hesperedes. The hero, ignorant of the situation of this celebrated garden, applied to the nymphs in the neighborhood of the Po for information, and was told that Nereus, the god of the sea would direct him in his pursuit. Hercules seized Nereus (the sea) while he was asleep, (calm) and the sea god unable to escape from his grasp, answered all the questions which he proposed. When Hercules came into Africa he demanded three of the golden apples. Atlas unloaded himself and placed the burden of the heavens on the shoulders of Hercules, while he Atlas (or the race of Atlas) went in quest of the apples. At his return Hercules expressed his wish to ease the burden by putting something on his head, and when Atlas assisted him to remove his inconvenience, Hercules artfully left the burden and seized the apples which Atlas had thrown on the ground (that is, took advantage of his discoveries).

ney westward he at last came to the island of Alantis and brought from it many rare and valuable curiosities. When the Tyrian marineres returned home they gave the citizens an account of all the wonders they had seen and the discoveries that had been made. Expeditions were at once fitted out for trading to the new country and the adventurers returned successful and enriched beyond their most sanguine

---

9. Plato gives the most concise account of the island of Atlantis of any among the ancients. In the dialogue with Timæus he says: "Hear O Socrates, a recital very improbable and yet very true, if we may believe Solon the wisest of the seven sages. The people of Sais like the Athenians very much because they believe themselves of the same origin; wherefore Solon in the voyage which he made into Egypt was received into that city with the greatest distinction.

"One day when this great man was conversing with the priest of Sais upon the history of remote times, one of them said to him: 'O Solon you Greeks are always children; there is not one among you who is not a novice in the science of antiquity. You are ignorant of the exploits of that generation of heroes of whom you are the feeble posterity. I am going to instruct you in the achievments of your ancesters; and I do in accordance with the divinity who formed you as well as us of fire.

'All that has passed in the Egyptian monarchy for thousands of years is recorded in our sacred books; and what I am going to tell you of your primi ive laws, manners and the revolutions of yonr country goes back still further.

'Our calenders relate that your republic resisted the efforts of a great power which coming out of the Atlantic sea had unjustly invaded Europe and Asia—for then that sea was fordible. Upon its borders was an island opposite to what you call in your language the columns of Hercules. This island was more extensive than Lybia and Asia put together. From thence voyagers might pass to the island whence it was easy for them to cross to the continent.

'In this Atlantis there were kings whose power was formidable. It extended over this island as well as over the

hopes. Grateful to Hercules for the sources of prosperity he had opened to them; they made him the tutelery deity or principal god of the city; building a magnificent temple to his honor, which Hiram, as we have before seen connected with the city and and greatly ornamented.

Other nations wished to join them in these expeditions but all such conjunction the Tyrians sternly disproved and would give aid in neither men or vessels. Some however stimulated by the love of enterpriee and the hope of immense gain, secretly determined to follow the path of Hercules, but on emerging from the straits of Gibraltar they found

---

adjacent islands and a part of the continent. Besides that they reigned over all the countries bordering Lybia, even unto Egypt, and the side of Europe even to Tyrrhenia. The sovereigns of the Atlantis, proud of so much power attempted to subjugate your country and ours. Then O Solon your republic showed itself superior to the rest of the world by its courage and virtue. It trampled over the Atlantes and preserved as all from servitude. But in the last times there ensued inundations and earthquakes; then all your warriors were swallowed up in the earth in the space of twenty four hours and the Atlantis disappeared. Since that catastrophe the sea which is found in that quarter is no longer navigable, on account of the mound which is formed there, and which arises from the submerged island.

"And now says Plato I will come to the facts. The gods (sons of Noah) divided among them the earth. The Atlantis was the portion of Neptune (Japheth) who had ten children, five male and five female and among them he divided his inheritance. Atlas (Gomer) had the best domain. They give him the title of king and his brothers contented themselves with that of archons (dukes).

"All these sons of Neptune as well as their descendants reigned for a long time in the Atlantis. The empire extended itself over islands stretched along the sea and finally increased to such a degree as to embrace all the countries situated between Tyrhenia and Egypt.

"The family of Atlas was that which arrived at the great-

it impossible, unused as they were to the art of sailing, to manage their vessels in that stormy and tempestuous ocean, into which they at once emerged. Many were cast away and destroyed in the effort and the rest fearful and discouraged gave up the undertaking and with difficulty reached their homes. On returning they gave out that a great dragon guarded the blessed islands of the Hesperides; that this dragon had devoured many of their companions, and forced them back without possessing the golden fruit or seeing the beautiful country of which they had gone in search. 9.

---

est degree of glory. It amassed riches such as no sovereign will ever amass again in the course of ages. Besides the island furnished an abundance of all that was necessary to life. There were mines of orichalque, a metal which is known at present only by name, and which does not yield in value but to gold. The earth nourished a crowd of animals, domestic as well as wild, and even elephants were seen there.

"The inhabitants of Atlantis knew how to construct temples, palaces and ports. The temple of Neptune, was covered over with a covering of gold; it was of immense size; but its architecture was of a singular character. They had represented in the Sanctuary, Neptune standing erect upon a chariot, harnessed with six winged horses of such a stature that the figure touched the vault of the edifice. Around the chariot were a hundred Neriads seated on dolphins. Upon the outer wall appeared the portraits of the kings and queens of the Atlantis in wrought gold.

"One might discover within the circumference of one royal house a circular riding school of great diameter wherein were performed the movements of the cavahy.

"Round the principal city there was a little plain encircled by mountains, from whence there was a gentle and easy slope to the sea.

The archons reigned each in his district and had the power of life and death. They assembled together every six years and regulated among themselves the general affairs of the island. They were during a number of generations, just powerful and happy. At length luxury introduced

For a time this narration prevented the attempts of others. but the Tyrians well knew that eventually many would succeed for their continual and successful voyages acted as fresh incitements to the nations around them, when an event occurred that placed them beyond danger on that account. A great sea overflowed into the Mediterranean and burst its way through the straits of Gibraltar overflowing a member of the Hesperian isles; from whence it became a current opinion that Atlantis itself was overthrown. The

---

depravity of manners and despotism. Jupiter in his wrath resolved to punish the crimestof the Atlantians: he convoked the immortals to the centre of the universe, from whence he looks down on all generations. When they were assembled." The rest of the dialogue is lost.

This dialogue of Plato is after the manner of his master Socrates, in which it is proposed to give the theory of the soul, to make men acquainted with a rewarding and avenging deity and to destroy the blasphemy of atheists a good Providence. De Sales remarks that, "all these sublime objects do not belong to fiction of which Plato himself gives notice it is not. Hear O Socrates, a recital very improbable and yet very true. This is not the style of a philosopher who composes apologies. He tries to render his tale probable and takes care not to say that it is not so."

"The history of Atlantis which opens the dialogue seems well connected with the foundation of the work. The description of the vicisitudes which have changed so many times the face of the globe—this people happy as long as it was just—and whom the Gods anihilated when it ceased to be so, prepares for the great truths which the philosopher is about to announce to men. Here is no need of astonish ing a multitude by illusions; error of this kind is only adapted to the barbarous legislator who wishes to deceive his victims, and not to the philosopher who comes to bring to unfortunate beings the last good which could be torn from them God and immortality. "Besides," continues De Sales. "Plato is not the only writer who speaks of the Atlantis. Homer and Sancomiathon also make mention of them."

Tyrians at first believed this themselves and gave up for hopeless the expedition that had last gone out; to their surprise, however, it returned and they found that only the intervening isles had been destroyed. They carefully concealed the fact from the nations around them: and although these voyages excited suspicion in regard to the real state of the case, yet as no competent person took pains to examine

---

Plutarch in speaking of the island of Atlantis calls it Ogygia from Ogyges one of the Atlantians (Oga means an island.) "This island he says, "is distant from Britain about five days voyage sailing westward; there are three others which are about the same distance from each other; they are reached by oared vessels. This ocean is everywhere dangerous to voyagers on account of shoals and shallows shifted by currents. There is a tradition that it was once frozen. The shores of the continent are inhabited, especially those of a vast bay as extensive as the Palas Meotides, the mouth of which is over aginst the Caspian Sea."

Tournefort, the botanist, in the beginning of the eighteenth century enlarged on these ideas. As Hercules had formerly done he sailed through the straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic and flattered himself that he had discovered in the little archipelego of the Canaries the remains of an ancient continent submerged. He goes on to explain this submersion by the rupture of the ancient isthmus of Gibraltar, caused by a violent overflow of the Mediterranean. "Perhaps said he the terrible irruption of the Mediterranean into the Atlantic submerged and overwhelmed that famous island Atlantis which Plato and Diodorus describe. The islands Canaries, Azores and America and the remains of it."

It may be well to remark in this connection, that two deluges or rather partial innundations are mentioned by all the ancient historians; they were occasioned by the elevation of volcanic islands and the overflow of the Euxine and thus breaking through the straits of Gibralter overwhelmed large tracts of the Atlantic isles. Pallus says that "the Euxine and Caspian seas as well as the lake Aral and seveeral others are the remains of a great sea which covered a great part of the north of Asia.

the matter, the former impression returned and Atlantis was forgotten.

As they increased in wealth they increased in indolence; luxury induced effeminacy; they wanted spirit to make the long and arduous voyages and the trade gradually ceased

---

It has been conjectured says an English writer, "that the Bosphorus was the occasion of draining the ocean Pallas mentions. The memory of this disruption of the two continents was preserved by the traditions of Greece It appears that this catastrophe was produced by the operation of Volcanoes, the fires of which were burning in the sea of the Argonautic voyage. In consequence the level of the Mediterranean and Atlantic was greatly changed. The ancient navigators complained that a number of shallows infested the regions of the Atlantic ocean The tradition of a great continent fully as large as the old world was not unknown to Aristotle. It is remarkble that recent navigators have observed many shallows nearly connected together in a line stretching from Spain through the Azores to Newfoundland. It is possible that after the submersion of this tract of land which served for the connection of the continents, navigation might become excessively difficult, until the overflowed countries gradually sunk to a greater depth, and thus at the same time gave occasion to the returning of the waters from the European coast."

Moreri tells us that "in order to be convinced that America was not absolutely unknown to the ancients, it is enough to consult them. Crantor assures us that the historical notice of Atlantis by Plato is true. Prochus quotes Mercellus an Ethiopian historian who wrote the same account of it as did Plato. Besides all this Diodorus Siculus affirms that certain Tyrians having passed the straits of Gibraltar were carried by furious tempest to lands far away in the Atlantic Ocean and that they found a very fertile island opposite Africa bordered by great navigable rivers. If we consider the situation of the island it was more probably America itself." A record of this visit has been discovered from "the Panic (Phœnecian) monument found some years ago in the forests behind Bostor. It is probable that some Tyrians, thrown by

until it was entirely broken off, so that for many years no Tyrian had visited Atlantis.

Consequently though none of the exiles had ever been to that far off country, yet they knew well by tradition its proper direction, and in the hour of extremity did not hesitate to steer for Atlantis. According as their ancestors had done before them they coursed the Mediterranean, passed the Straits of Hercules and nothing daunted by the expanse of waters that met their view sailed in a westerly direction. After some days they passed a small group of islands, whose

---

storms on these unknown coasts, uncertain if even the same tracks might be again discovered, choose to leave this monument of their adventures."

Seneca, eighteen hundred years ago was so certain of the existence of a great country behind the sea that in his tragedy of Media he thas expresses himself.

> Years will come in future ages
> When ocean shall loose the chain of events
> And a vast territory shall be laid open
> And Tethys shall discover new worlds
> And Thule be no longer the boundary of the earth.

It is very remarkable that the words of Plato respecting the agrandizement of the Atlantians, in this Atlantis correspond with the traditions of the ancient Peruvians concerning their origin and antiquities."

Whatever may have been the amount of inundation recorded by Plato it seems most unlikely that it could have overwhelmed so large a territory as that of Atlantis. In all verisimilitude a considerable portion of the Atlantian population must have survived the catastrophe. Many of the ancient traditions distinctly imply that the Atlantian race had not entirely perished; and if the Tyrians gave out a report of their utter annihilation we well know the reason of this fabricated falsehood, for Diodorus Siculus tells us that they endeavored to keep the knowledge of the country from the Europeans and thus retain a profitable commerce with the Atlantians to themselves."

situation was in accordance with what they had heard, and thus much cheered by knowing they were in the proper course, continued the journey.

The moon became full and waned and became full again and still found them on the waters; and now considerable alarm began to fill their bosoms. None of their ancestors had ever spent so much time in arriving at Atlantis and they feared that either the island was in reality overthrown or that they had missed its direction. Their provisions and water began to fail also, and this added to their terror and distress. At last the moon waned and without any expectation of ever seeing it full again, they were beginning to despair when they found themselves in a powerful current, this raised their hopes, nor were they again destined to disappointment, for on the second day they reached the place of their destination and landed on the eastern coast of Mexico. 10.

Their ships were in a worn and unsafe condition, but tired of the sea and having no longer any motives for traveling on as they dared not return to Phœnecia, they did not repair the shattered vessels, but on the contrary suffered them to fall to pieces; and thus all means of ever retracing their steps was lost and in fact not cared for. Circumstances had developed in them all the hardy and resolute spirit of their favored ancestors. They applied themselves diligently

---

10. The unexpected length of time which it took them to reach Atlantis or the shores of Mexico, can only be accounted for by another general sinking of land, and that this is the case is the opinion of many modern geologists. Darwin in his "Voyage of a Naturalist," says that the geologist who is fully impressed with the vast oscillations of level which have affected the earth's crust within late periods, will not fear to speculate on the recent submergence of land in the West Indian archipelago, as the cause of the present zoological separation of North and South America. The South American character of the West Indian manumals seem to indicate that this archipelago was formerly united to the southern continent and that it has subsequently been an area of subsidence.

to the arts and agriculture. Soon splendid cities rose around them; pyramids, rivaling those of Egypt towered to the skies, forming like those similar structures in the east an imperishable monument to their builders; and aqueducts like the ones that used formerly to supply old Tyre with water were reared, incomparable in point of size and beauty of workmanship.

Finding a number of small islands in a lake situated in the midst of a beautiful valley, they resolved to build a city on those islands to commemorate the one they had lost, accordingly they erected a magnificent city, and filled up the land between it and the main land in three separate places, two more than Alexander had made when he took Tyre. The city though in a very warm country was situated so high up as to enjoy a temperature at all times exceedingly mild and refreshing. It was considered by its builders the most glorious place in the world. The only remnant that remained to the Tyrians of their former state of life was the magnificent floating gardens that floated on the lake of Tezcuco.

The Tyrians when they landed did not expect to find the country without inhabitants and accordingly were not surprised at meeting strange tribes; but they were not the ones whom they wished to see, but on the contrary an entirely different race, destitute of the polish and civilization that characterized the Atlantians. As a matter of course, the childen of Azelmic or Aztecs as they were afterwards called soon obtained the superiority which with occasional reverses they kept until enslaved in turn by Cortez.

They afterwards found that the Atlantians who had peopled the islands of the sea were mostly cut off by two great floods and earthquakes which had reached their country; the first time many of the isles of the sea were destroyed, and the second their mainland had sunk into the water burying up their kings and nobles in their gorgeous and beautiful cities noted throughout the world. The remnants of the people had retreated before invaders who came over

---

11. "When America," says Darwin, "and especially North America possessed its elephants, mastodons, horse and

from the north and now lived in a vast continent many moons journey to the south.

After many generations an armament of vessels appeared on the western shore, from which disembarked a great number of men with whom the Aztecs had many dangerous combats, but did not succeed in conquering them. On the contrary they took possession of a district of the country as their own and settling on it soon rivalled the early inhabi-

---

hollow horned ruminants, its was much more closely related in its zoological character to the temperature of Europe and Asia than it is now. As the remains of these genera are found on both sides of Behring's Straits, andon the plains of Siberia we are led to look to the north-western side of North America as the former point of communication between the old and so called New World. And as so many species, both living and extinct of these same genera, inhabit and have inhabited the old world it seems most probable that the North American elephants, mastodons, horse and hollow horned ruminants migrated on land since submerged near Behring's straits, from Siberia into south America, and thence on land since submerged. into the West Indies and South America, where for a time they mingled with the forms characteristic of that southern continent, and have since become extinct."

If the lower animals and of such enormous size too, could so easily pass from Asia into America what possible objection can be uged against the equally easy introduction of men.

Those who have suggested the possibility of America having been peopled from Asia, point to the similarity in features, manners and mode of life of the natives of both places Mr. Parsons in his "Remains of Japhet," entertains no doubt but that the earliest Americans were a colony from Tartary. In confirmation of this he observes that the American natives had some acquaintance with the doctrine of the Trinity, for they worshiped the sun under the threefold appellation of "Father and Lord Sun," "The Sun Son," and "Brother Sun," and moreover adored an idol called by the name of Tanga Tanga, which signifies "one in Three

tants in arts and civilization: they were known by the name of Toltecs. The continual jealousies that subsisted between them and the Aztecs however, made their position uncomfortable and at last they left the northern country entirely and went to a long distance south where they enjoyed an equally delightful climate and the blessings of peace. 12.

---

and Three in one." There is a similar worship among the Lamas of Thibet and Tartary. Corroborative evidence of their Tartar origin may be found in the pillars of stone of which Peter Kalm gives an account, that were discovered some hundred miles west of Montreal, evidently of great antiquity and one covered with inscriptions in the Tartar characters.

According to Mr. Pennant, the customs of scalping, torturing and even eating their prisoners, of disguising themselves as wild beasts for the purpose of the chase and of marching in file and not abreast prevail among the American Indians as among the inhabitants of Tartary, while in their physical formation thy similarity is even more apparent.

It seems that a corrupt species of Jewish ceremonialism had spread in early ages over a great part of north-eastern Asia, when the Manchou Tartars imbibed them. As might be expected these ceremonies may be traced in the northen tribes. A mother was secluded after childbirth: the widowed wife generally married her husband's brother: they selected their priests (medicine men) from among a portion of the tribe not warriors; they worship one God, practise circumcision, etc. etc.

"Their opinion," says a writer, "is of little value who think that the people of America came from Great Tartary, because there were no horses in that country before the Spanish conquest, and it is almost impossible that the Scythians who abounded in horses, should bring none with them, besides the Tartars were never seamen.

There was no necessity of ships being employed in crossing, as Darwin has proved, and as for the horse he mentions "finding a tooth of a horse in a stained and decayed state." When he brought it to Europe he fonnd it to compare with

Some time after the removal of the Toltecs, a man tall in statue, of a fair complexion, with long dark hair and a flowing beard, rose up among the Astecs and became celebrated by his actions and teachings. They called him Quetzalcoatl or the god of the air, from his power of divining atmospheric changes. Under his instructions they attained a remarkable knowledge of Agriculture, so that the fields bore crops a hundred fold greater than before, the granaries teemed with vegetable treasures, and all thoughts of starvation fled from the minds of men. He also showed them the uses of metals. More than all did he take particular pains to inform them of the proper method of government and how the gods should be worshiped.

For many years he thus continued his career of greatness and benevolence until finding that the hearts of the people were with him and it was in his power to influence them as he choose, the higher powers became jealous and drove him off, for they feared to kill him. Quetzalcoatl thus forced to depart travelled towards the sea coast, but stopped on his way at the city of Cholula, when in like manner as he had done in other places he taught the people. He showed them that flowers and fruits in their season were the only sacrifices

---

a similar one found in the United States by a slight but peculiar curvature in it. "It is certainly a marvellous fact in the history of the Mammalia, that in South America a native horse should have lived and disappeared, to be succeeded in after ages by the countless herds descended from the few introduced with the Spanish colonists."

12. The Toltecs were probably the people given an account of by Marco Polo, who tells us that Kublai Khan a Tartarian monarch, after he had conquered the southern part of China, sent out a naval expedition for the purpose of subduing Japan, but that this armament was cast away and never more heard of; and it has often been conjectured that some of the vessels may have found their way to American shores, a supposition that will explain the traces of Tartar customs existing among the Mexicans at the time of the Spanish conquest.

the gods ever liked and consequently that none other could ever be acceptably offered by the people. In gratitude for his kind offices the people raised a monument to commemorate his fame and instituted a priesthood to offer sacrifices upon it. But this deed was the occasion of his sudden departure, for the Aztecs princes hearing of his increasing power threatened vengeance on the inhabitants of Cholula if they sheltered him any longer. Quetzalcoatl delaying no longer his departure entered a magic skiff made of the skins of serpents and directed his course to the mysterious shores of Tlapallam.

But before his departure he promised his faithful followers that he would revisit them hereafter and bring with him many of his children, and that then he would be much more powerful than now, and the whole country should come under his sway. His children he told them should resemble himself in appearance and complexion and they should be armed with thunder and lightning with which to wreak vengeance on all the foes who opposed them. 51.

---

13. For information on this subject consult Prescott's History of Mexico, or still better a beautifully written romance founded on the tradition of Quetzalcoatl, by Edward Maturin, entitled Montezuma, or the last of the Aztecs, published by Paine and Burgess of this city.

14. The pyramid built to the honor of the god of the air at Cholula is of the most colossal dimensions, being, within eight feet, twice as large as the great Egyptian pyramid at Ghizeh. Its base covers an extent of upwards of forty-four acres, and the platform on it occupies more than one acre. Its perpendicular height is one hundred and seventy-seven feet. Some have supposed that it was originally a work of nature, but this opinion is refuted not only by tradition which speaks of its being built by man, but also by the fact that a road cut a few years since across it, laid open a large section in which different layers of clay and brick were distinctly visible.

15. It will be well upon closing the account of the Aztecs to enumerate some of the principle points of resemblance

The people fondly remembered his promise; it descended as a heirloon to their children and was forgotten by none. its belief grew stronger and stronger, until at length a general feeling spread through the Aztec empire and its tributaries that the time had approached for the appearance of Quetzalcoatl and his children with fair complexion, armed with thunder and lightning. Agreeably to the universal

---

between the ancient Mexicans and Tyrians. It is comparatively an easy matter to prove that they came from the east. So strikingly do the traditions speak on his subject that the source from whence they acquired them, remains a matter of but little doubt to the enquirer.

They speak of a universal deluge in which only two persons, Coxcox and his wife, escaped; and in their old paintings the heads of these two are shown along with a boat which is floating on the waters at the foot of a mountain. Others and to this that the boat was filled with various birds and beasts. From out this boat they say that a vulture was first sent to see if the land appeared; but the voracious bird remained feeding on the dead bodies of the drowned giants. After waiting some time Coxcox sent forth a little humming bird which returned soon after with a twig in its mouth.

They had also a great tower about which they tell a story of the giants building to save themselves from the floods. Their tradition tells of one Eve who brought sin into the world, and from hence the sufferings of childbirth on women. This Eve is represented always with a serpent beside her. The sin consisted in their opinion in plucking a forbidden rose.

The Spanish conquerors were surprised beyond measure at beholding the cross the symbol of their own worship, universally adored in Mexico. It was sculptured on the walls of their temples and in some cases figures of children represented on the sculpture as held up to it in an attitude of prayer. This cross simulated that of the Egyptian, and many other eastern nations, being the symbol of the goddess Astarte.

Another rite of the Mexicans filled the Spaniards with amazement, the forming an image of their principal god

expectation it was announced that the air-god's descendants had come to take possession of the empire, and the news was received with a mingled feeling of dread and curiosity.

The white invaders marched through the country, and though many efforts was made to detain them, triumphed over their opposers and were victorious in every contest. Gaining the capital at last they imprisoned the imperial Montezuma, overturning the idol gods, and destroying the priesthood that served them, finally desolated the empire and once more made the descendants of Canaan "servants of servants."

---

with Indian corn and blood, and after pronouncing over it certain mysterious words distributing it to the people, who eating it in sorrow and humiliation proclaimed, that they were partaking of the flesh and blood of the deity. A similar use was made of wine and bread by the ancient Tyrians. Baptism in a form nearly similar to the Spanish was also practiced.

Both the Tyrians and Mexicans were of course, from what has been said, idolatrous nations and sacrificed human beings on the dedication of their temples and defeat in war. But the Mexicans carried the habit to a greater extent than their ancestors had ever done. The companions of Cortez counted one hundred and thirty skulls in one of the temples, which had been sacrificed in a very few years. Their mode of sacrificing to the war god was also peculiar and it has been well remarked, that their was nothing like it in all the nations as regards refinement of cruelty. It was part of their law of war and they deliberately spared the captive on the field of battle to make a sacrifice of him in cold blood to the god of war. The priest took the bound victim and cutting open his chest, tore out the still beating heart with bloody violence. It is by discovering such traits as these in their character that we feel little sympathy for the conquered Mexicans, and view with composure the retaliation of the Spaniards.

The Tyrians offered up children to the god Saturn (Moloch) who was represented by a large statue, the figure bent slightly forward and so placed that the weight of the small-

The city of Sumai situated in a wild and desolate tract of country escaped for a long time the notice of the Spanish conquerors, and it was not until the rage of gold and blood-

---

est child was sufficient to alter its position and cast the infant into a fiery furnace below the idol. On the ruins of Central America the custom is portrayed in bold relief, and perhaps, as in the days of the Tyrian Jezabel, brought a curse upon the country so that the rain nor dew might fall upon it, and as no Elijah was there the curse still continues, for all travellers in those regions complain of the want of water, and decidedly declare that those cities, with which they abound, could never have been built did the same want of that article exist in those days as it does in our own. Often near Moloch is the cross of Astarte (the moon).

The sacrifice to the goddess of health Hygeia by optional circumcision was one of the rites of the old Tyrian worship, and may also be identified in the Mexican. The chief worship of both nations was given to Apollo, the sun god, and many temples of the most gorgeous character were erected to his honor. As among the Phœnecians, were also temples in which a sacred fire was kept burning night and day, by virgins of the sun. The Mexicans had a knowledge of painting similar to the Tyrians and both preferred vermilion. The square columned style of their architecture can be proved identical, and on this subject alone volumes might be written. The works of Mr. Stephens on Central America read in this light, will prove doubly interesting and instructive, and of course render superflous from their easy access any particular description.

The swan was the symbolical emblem of the Tyrians and the antiquarian Jacob Bryant says, "that wherever they or their descendants may have settled there will be found a story about a swan." Accordingly the Spanish historian Sahagun relates that about two centuries before the conquest by the Spaniards, the Aztecs were compelled to surrender to a neighboring kingdom that oppressed them, their emblamatical bird the swan.

Two other Tyrian emblems, serpents and eggs, are uni-

shed was considerably abated that it was found out, and even then, as it had nothing to recommend it to their attention, they allowed the inhabitants upon paying a tax to pur-

---

versally found sculptured on the ruins of the ancient cities of Mexico. A third one which cannot fail to be a conclusive proof of the identity of the two nations is the representation on the Mexican walls and temples of the spial shells, belonging to the murex which furnished the juice for the celebrated Tyrian dye. It need not be mentioned of course that no animal at all resembling the murex is found on the Mexican coast.

Mr. Jones, has instanced a similarity in their political character in the formation of monarchies and republics as shown at Tyrus and Carthage, Mexico and Toltecs, besides great knowledge of Military affairs and defensive locality with analagous architecture on the sea and walls of Tyrus and Copan. And more than all the rest, to conclude, the sculptured altar of Copan every detail of which is acknowledged to be essentially Tyrian, in all its parts; the characters on this celebrated altar represent the *last event* in the history of Tyre! and from its character it would naturally become the first subject of record in the country to which they emigrated. Their astromomical chart was similar to that of the Tyrians, and contained animals not found or known in Mexico.

The moment the Spaniards landed on the Mexican shores, news was conveyed to the courts of Montezuma, by means of the picture writing for which his subjects were so much celebrated; and thus the Emperors received notice of the awful and wonderful beings who had so suddenly appeared upon his shores. Immediately there came to his mind the prophecies relative to Quetzalcoatl, the deity with fair complexion and flowing beard who after fulfiling his mission of benevolence among the Indians had embarked for the mysterious shores of Tlapallan. These strangers exactly resembled the god of the air; their coming verified his prediction, and the intrepid and successful warrior who had from early youth been known as the greatest conqueror of his race and before whom nations of his own subduing now

sue their own habits which they have done amid all the various changes of government to the present day; and would probably have continued much longer unnoticed had

---

bow in abject obedience—the great Montezuma sank into the superstitious despot, and saw only in the ill-fated coming of the white warriors, the departure of his crown and kingdom. We are told that the white bearded men in flying castles, who spoke in thunder and lightning paralyzed his mind and shook him with an awe from which he never recovered, for no one in the empire believed with more shuddering faith than himself, the prophecies which it was expected were about to be fulfilled. Dryden makes mention of it in his play of the Indian Emperor.

[*Enter Guyomar hastily; the scene is a sacrafice in the temple*]

Odmar. My brother Guyomar! methinks I spy
Haste in his steps and wonder in his eye.

Montezuma. I sent thee to the frontiers: quickly tell
The cause of thy return; are all things well.

Guyomar. I went in order sir to your command
To view the utmost limits of the land,
To that sea where no more world is found,
But foaming billows breaking on the ground
Where for a while my eyes no object met,
But distant skies that in the ocean set,
And low hung clouds that dipped themselves in rain
To shake their fleeces on the earth again;
At last, as far as I could cast my eyes
Upon the sea, somewhat me thought did rise
Like bluish mists which still appearing more,
Took dreadful shapes and moved towards the shore,

Montezuma. What forms did these new wonders represent?

Guyomar. More strange than what your wonder can invent,
The object I could first distinctly view
Was tall straight trees, which on the waters flew.

not the second conquest brought them to light from Col. Doniphan following up the information gathered from the savages.

Wings on their sides instead of leaves did grow,
Which gathered all the breath the winds could blow;
And at their roots grew floating palaces
Whose outbowed belles cut the yielding seas.

Montezuma. What divine monsters O ye gods are these
That float in air and fly upon the seas;
Came they alive or dead upon the shore?

Guyomar. Alas! they lived; surely I heard them roar;
All turned their sides and to each other spoke,
I saw their words breathe out in fire and smoke,
Sure it is their voice that thunders from on high,
Or these the younger brothers of the sky.
Deaf with the noise I took my hasty flight—
No mortal courage can support the fight.

High Priest. Old prophecies foretell our fall at hand
When beared men in floating castles land
I see it is of dire potent.

Indian Emperor, Act I. Scene 2.

Mr. Prescott speaking of the belief of the Indian race in the return of Quetzalcoatl, says that it was fondly cherished and as much expected as the advent of their king Sebastian continued to be the Potuguese or that of the Mesiah by the Jews, and that it was in a great measure owing to this belief that the Spaniards were enabled to conquer the country.

BOOK II.

DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

BEFORE THE PERIOD OF COLUMBUS.

It will be well before reading this article to turn to a map of the world and carefully survey the positions as laid down on it of the north-western part of Europe to Iceland and Greenland, and in turn, the positions of these two last named places to North America. Such an examination will cause much of the difficulty to vanish that might exist in the mind relative to an easy passage from any one of the places to another.

That the existence of waste tracks of land was known to the inhabitants of western Europe in early times is evident from the nature of many of their traditions. It was fondly believed that a land of perpetual summer existed beyond the ocean and that all which could be required to feast the palate or gratify the eye was there in countless profusion Many tried to discover them, but returned back disheartened with the length of the voyage and terrified by the boundless

extent of waters spread out before them. Mrs. Hemans speaks of such places,

> — in her isles of delight that rest
> Far off in a breezeless main
> Which many a bark with a weary quest
> Has sought but still in vain.

A writer, prefacing the narration by remarking that essential truth form the basis of most fables, quotes from Stillingfleet, the seven years' voyage of St. Brenda, in quest of Paradise (or the Elysian islands). St. Brenda hearing an account of the discovery of a delightful island by Mernoc, resolves to visit the place, and after building a vessel, put in forty days provisions, and set sail with fourteen of his followers. After many hardships, and from want of provisions being obliged to subsist on whatever fish they couldcatch, they came at last to an island uninhabited by men, but filled with immense numbers of the feathered tribes, and named by them in consequence the Paradise of Birds. Staying three months here they again put to sea and encountered many strange adventures before reaching home.

The Welsh chief Gavran, as quoted by Southey in Madoc, made several discoveries by sea and among others of islands in the west called the Green-lands of the ocean. From the same country also went forth Madoc in the twelfth century in search of the Atlantic and American territories. Southey remarks that strong evidence has been adduced on this subject; and that his posterity exist there to this day on the southern branches of the Missouri, retaining their complexion, their language, and in some degree, their arts.

The Northmen scattered along the north-western coast of Europe were very successful in their discoveries of the Atlantic islands and America. Bold, hardy and resolute they relied on the traditions of their ancestors and putting

out to sea, with fearless and unflinching confidence, were fully justified in their faith by the realization of their most sanguine anticipations. Certain pirates on an expedition from Norway to the Faroe islands were driven out of their course in the ninth century and discovered the volcanic summit of Hecla. Harold the fair-haired was then king of Norway, and his ambition and usurpations drove off many of his chieftains to seek a home in another country who gladly took advantage of the piratical discovery, and in 827 sailed to the new which country soon became settled, and sent out adventurers to discover other lands; and thus in turn Greenland became known and inhabited. Still extending their excursions they came to the American shores, as far down it is supposed as Massachusetts.

In a voyage made by Lief, in those early times, along the coast he came to a barren plain of slaty formation and called it HELLULAND or the country of slates; coming to another place after the lapse of some days in which the country was flat and covered with wood and tracks of white sand wherever they went; he called it MARKLAND. At last they arrived at a place that suited them in every respect, and here they went ashore and constructed tents of skins; the soil was excellent, the eatable animals on the land plenty, and in the river, larger and finer salmon than they had ever before seen.

It happened one evening that they missed a man of their company and it was Tyrker the German. This was a great grief to Lief under whose father Tyrker had long served, and to whom he was much attached. He according set out to find Tyrker, with a company of men, but had proceeded to a very short distance when they met the absentee who gave them a hearty welcome; he staggered as he walked and uttered strange sentences, which led Lief to

make enquiry, when he found, to his surprise, that Tyrker had discovered vines and grapes and was then under the influence of the generous liquor. Taking advantage of this event they loaded their ship with timber and grapes and then returned to Greenland. When they arrived home they spoke of the new country, under the name of VINLAND

"The discovery of Vinland," says a writer, "was not made in obscure age. It may have been preceeded by many remarkable voyages in the west, and we do not venture to deny positively that the stories of the Limerick merchants, especting the Northmen carried to Great Ireland and the White Man's Land, may have had their foundation in some very early transatlantic discoveries. But conferring our attention to what is strictly matter of history we may remark that the discovery of Vinland was made cotemporaneously with the first colonization of Greenland, and the establishment of christianity in that country and Iceland, and consequently belonged to the most interesting period in the annals of the north.

"The discovery of Vinland was immediately made known in Norway; and in the latter half of the eleventh century Adam of Bremen heard it from Swein king of Denmark. This discovery he emphatically remarks is not a fable but we know it from certain information of the Danes.

"The ancient Icelandic geographers agreed in placing Markland and Vinland to the south of Greenland, and what is very remarkable that Vinland, the most remote country known to them in that quarter was supposed to join Africa, a supposition that makes evident two facts; first, that it was situated a long way south of Greenland; and that secondly nothing was known of the extent of its shores.

"Columbus visited Iceland in 1477; and from his general

appetence of knowledge it cannot be doubted that he heard of the early voyages of the Northmen and their discovery of Vinland. What could be more to his purpose or better adapted to his views, than the fact that the Northmen, the boldest of navigators had knowledge of a land in the west, which they supposed to extend far southwards till it met Africa? Or could not the intelligent Genoese find some suggestion in the following more accurate statement of an Icelandic geographer? '*On the west of the great sea of Spain which some call Ginnugagap, and bearing somewhat towards the north, the first land which occurs is the good Vinland.*' It would add little to the reputation of Columbus to maintain that he was incapable of profiting by so good a hint.

"Columbus himself, from these facts comes to be regarded in a new light not so much as an original discoverer as one who repeated and established the accredited discoveries of his predecessors in a most heroic and glorious style of experiment. Thus was the ancient Tyrian and Pythagorean system of astronomy revived, restored and developed by Copernicus and Newton. Their immense merit consisted in the examination, accumulation and demonstration of antique theories that had well nigh been consigned to oblivion. And this in our estimation requires a lofter and wider range of intellectual science, than original discovery itself. Original discovery as it is called is often the result of chance or accident, the spirit of contradiction and even the rashness of desperation. Original discoveries are often struck out in an instant to the astonishment of their inventors who had no anticipation of them. Not so with the profound truth teacher who knowing that what is true is not new, and that what is new is not true, searches through the recondite annals of our planet for the golden links of the true philosophy

For this man, what perseverance is required, what subtlety, what fine perception of analogies, what a critical analysis of all the elements that constitute probability.

"Such men if not original discoverers, are discoverers of a still higher order. They lay hold of the neglected germ which original discovery had hung on the sharp rocks of incredulity, and develop it into an august and glorious system of demonstrated verity. They seize the little spark of promethian fire which was just about to perish in the fogs of forgetfulness and by it they rekindle the universe into a blaze of exulting hope.

"If therefore we admire Columbus less as the hardy adventurer, who with a dogged and desperate resolution, hoping against hope, launched forth on the Atlantic to discover he knew not what, we reverence him more than ever as the keen-sighted and philosophic truth-seeker, who from the accumulated testimony of ages, in the haughty independence of conscious genius moulded a most refined yet demonstrable theory of geographical facts. His mind when he set sail from Europe was impressed with the weight of historical evidence and he proceeded in confidence and certainty."

Not only did Columbus acquire information by his visit to Iceland but his knowledge was strongly confirmed by the reports he heard of land being seen far to the west of Iceland—the discovery of Maderia, the discovery of carved wood not cut with iron instruments four hundred and fifty leagues from Cape St. Vincent, on the open sea, and immense sized reeds, which had drifted to Port Santo, from the west—hugh pine trees of unknown species, wafted by western winds to the Azores, and not least of all, human bodies of wonderous form and feature cast upon the island of Flores.

The Society of Northen Antiquarians at Copenhagen are now engaged in collecting and publishing all the accounts concerning the voyages of the Northmen to this continent

long before its discovery by Columbus. The information they have already given to the world is invaluable and definitely settles the disputed question of early discovery

LBS'31

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 029 813 390 8